18

Sir, London, Down Street, 3. Aug. 1784. —

18

ARCHIVES
OF THE STATE OF
MARYLAND.

As I consider this Government interested in the following Case, I take the Liberty to lay it before you. —

The Legislature of the Colony of Maryland, by a Tax laid on Tobacco exported, acquired a considerable Sum of Bank Stock, and by a Law, in 1769, appointed Osgood Hanbury, Sylvanus Grove and James Russell, Esquires, Trustees of the said Stock; and they, from Time to Time, rendered Accounts of their Trust to the Legislature of the said Colony. — The General Assembly of the State of Maryland, since the Revolution, claim the same Right to the Bank Stock, as the Legislature of the Colony of Maryland, before that Event; and, in 1783, the General Assembly of Maryland passed a Law, and revoked the Trust reposed in Hanbury, Grove and Russell; and in Virtue of the Law I was appointed and commissioned, Agent and Trustee, on behalf of the State, to receive the Bank Stock, and, on Receipt, to discharge the Trustees. — On my Arrival in England, I demanded a Transfer, and after five Months Delay, Mr. Russell refused to transfer any Part of the Stock, unless the State, or I, as its Agent, would give him £12,000 Stock, in compensation for the Property belonging to him, confiscated by a Law of the State of Maryland (in 1781) during the late War. — To compel an Execution of the Trust I filed a Bill in the Court of Chancery, and all the Defendants answered. — The Lord Chancellor, on a Motion to transfer to me the Surplus of the Stock, not claimed by any of the Defendants observed, as it was stated, that the Stock was held in Trust, in virtue of Laws made by the Legislature of the Colony, and was now claimed on behalf of the State

A